

**MINUTES OF THE
EDUCATION INTERIM COMMITTEE**

Wednesday, May 17, 2006 – 2:00 p.m. – Room W135 House Building

Members Present:

Sen. Howard A. Stephenson, Senate Chair
Sen. Patrice M. Arent
Sen. D. Chris Buttars
Sen. Karen Hale
Sen. Mark B. Madsen
Sen. David L. Thomas
Rep. Ron Bigelow
Rep. LaVar Christensen
Rep. John Dougall
Rep. James A. Ferrin
Rep. James R. Gowans
Rep. David L. Hogue
Rep. Kory M. Holdaway
Rep. Gregory H. Hughes

Rep. Carol Spackman Moss
Rep. Merlynn T. Newbold
Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig
Rep. LaWanna "Lou" Shurtliff
Rep. Stephen H. Urquhart

Members Absent:

Rep. Margaret Dayton, House Chair
Rep. Bradley T. Johnson

Staff Present:

Ms. Constance C. Steffen, Policy Analyst
Mr. Phillip V. Dean, Policy Analyst
Mr. Dee S Larsen, Associate General Counsel
Ms. Glenda S. Whitney, Legislative Secretary

Note: A list of others present, a copy of related materials, and an audio recording of the meeting can be found at www.le.utah.gov.

1. Committee Business

Sen. Stephenson called the meeting to order at 2:25 p.m. He recognized and welcomed Rep. Jennifer M. Seelig, a new committee member who replaced Rep. Duane E. Bourdeaux. Rep. Dayton was excused from attending the meeting.

Due to lack of a quorum, no motion was taken on the minutes.

2. Information Management Systems for Student Data

Sen. Stephenson noted that school districts and the Utah State Office of Education have numerous databases with extensive data on student achievement, but much of the data is not readily accessible by teachers, administrators, parents, and researchers. He asked representatives of the Utah State Office of Education, school districts, and DigitalBridge to discuss information systems in use and under development.

Mr. Russ Klein, Results Coordinator, Utah State Office of Education, gave a slide presentation, "Cognos - Business Intelligence Software," and distributed copies of the presentation to committee members. He explained that Cognos: 1) provides a variety of ways to collect, aggregate, and display data; 2) allows multiple users of varying skill levels to manipulate and view data; and 3) connects multiple databases allowing comparisons between different datasets.

Mr. Reed Spencer, Ogden School District; Mr. Dale Bills, Nebo School District; Mr. Preston Checketts, Box Elder School District; Ms. Kim Taylor, Logan School District; and Mr. John Jesse, Alpine School District helped with Mr. Klein's slide presentation and showed how the district schools use Cognos.

Mr. Brent Israelsen, President, DigitalBridge, distributed a handout, "DigitalBridge securing the future," and gave an overview of the Utah DigitalSAMS (Student Achievement Management System) project. He explained that DigitalSAMS is a management system that can be implemented by school districts and the Utah State Office of Education to aggregate all the information necessary to measure academic achievement for each student and make this information available in a protected manner to the teachers, administrators, parents, and students.

Mr. Jim Johnson, Superintendent, Iron County School District, helped with Mr. Israelsen's presentation and explained how DigitalSAMS technology is being used in the district.

Mr. Jack Perkins, DigitalBridge, presented a slide presentation and demonstrated how Iron County School District has implemented DigitalSAMS in its schools. He noted how this technology bridges the gaps between the existing systems and provides the missing integration that is required to achieve Utah's educational performance goals.

Supt. Patti Harrington, State Superintendent of Public Instruction, and Ms. Judy Park, Director, Assessment and Accountability, Utah State Office of Education, responded to questions regarding Cognos and DigitalSAMS.

3. U-PASS Accountability Plan

Due to lack of time, Chair Stephenson asked Ms. Park to come back and update the Committee on the development of the U-PASS (Utah Performance Assessment System for Students) Accountability Plan and discuss school performance reports for the 2004-05 school year.

Ms. Park referred the Committee to the website, <http://u-pass.schools.utah.gov/u-passweb/>, where the school performance reports can be viewed.

4. Other Items /Adjourn

MOTION: Sen. Madsen moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion passed unanimously with Sen. Buttars, Sen. Hale, Rep. Christensen, Rep. Dougall, Rep. Ferrin, Rep. Gowans, Rep. Hughes, and Rep. Urquhart absent for the vote.

Chair Stephenson adjourned the meeting at 4:52 p.m.

